

 **FIRST THINGS FIRST**

TUSD



Three Governments
Working Together to
Provide More
Preschool Services to
Tribal Children

READY FOR SCHOOL. SET FOR LIFE.

Agenda

- Description of Partners
- The intent of the Regional Partnership Council
- MOU and Coordination of Services
- PYT Head Start Ili Uusim Mahtawa'apo
- TUSD Preschool at Johnson School
- Tribal Education System
- Learning as we go...
- QA



Description of Partners

First Things First Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Partnership Council

- First Things First (FTF) is a voter approved initiative that was established to help provide greater opportunities for all children five and under in Arizona to grow up healthy and ready to succeed.
- The Regional Partnership Council has responsibility for assessment, planning, partnership development, and program/service implementation for early childhood development and health improvements for the children of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe reservation.



Description of Partners

Pascua Yaqui Tribe (PYT)

- The Pascua Yaqui Tribe is a federally recognized Tribe. The Tribe was formally recognized on September 18, 1978. The Pascua Yaqui Reservation is located in Pima County, in the southwestern part of the Tucson metropolitan area.
- Pascua Yaqui Tribe has seven other traditional communities in Pima, Maricopa and Pinal Counties where the Tribal government also provides services.
- The languages of the Tribe are Yaqui, English, and Spanish.
- Tribal Head Start program, Ili Uusim Mahtawapo, provides services to 140 children.

Tucson Unified School District (TUSD)

- Tucson Unified School District an urban district with approximately 54,000 students.
- TUSD serves the Pascua Yaqui Tribe through the District's pre K-12 system, which includes pre-K education services.

The Intent of the Regional Council

Increase access to high quality early care and education settings for Tribal children.

Partnered with the Tribal Head Start to expand services for children on the center waiting list (Child Care Home Recruitment, Quality First, Home Visitation and Parenting Education).

Continue discussion about the Head Start waiting list.

Johnson School under TUSD is close to the reservation and where many of the Tribal children attend school.

2013: more high quality preschool services to Tribal children, age three and four, from the Head Start waiting list through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between PYT, TUSD and FTF.

MOU and Coordination of Services

MOU Process

- PYT- FTF-TUSD Meetings
- Legal review
- Tribal Council
- Signed MOU
- Strategy implementation

Cross-regional
collaboration with
Pima South Regional
Council (Quality First)

Coordination Activities

- Children registration/ family information
- Children placement for Johnson preschool during school year
- The preschool classroom curriculum
- Children with special needs
- Transportation
- Preschool calendar
- Professional Development

PYT Head Start Ili Uusim Mahtawa'apo

Celebration

- In the spirit of celebration, we commend the parents and families, teachers, co-teachers, kitchen staff, bus drivers/monitors, coordinators, custodians, and supervisors, for providing our students with exceptional school readiness skills by improving instruction and practices at Ili Uusim Mahtawa'apo.



PYT Head Start Ili Uusim Mahtawa'apo

Designation Renewal System (DRS)

- Federal review of the program in 2009
- Head Start funding jeopardized
- Worked hard for several years to restructure our learning center to include rich Yoeme language and culture, blended into a research-based curriculum to meet the new paradigm shift within Head Start.



PYT Head Start Ili Uusim Mahtawa'apo

Paradigm Shift

- The federal performance standards required regulated Head Start programs to acquire accountability measures, thus Ili Uusim Mahtawa'apo adopted:
 - a new screening instrument,
 - new research based curriculum, and
 - a computerized student assessment tool.



PYT Head Start Ili Uusim Mahtawa'apo

Implementation

Previous Approach

- Developmental Indicators for the Assessment of Early Learning- 3rd (DIAL3)
- Home made
- Little Cultural Exposure

Data Driven Approach

- Ages and Stages Questionnaire- 3rd (ASQ3) screening
- Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test (PPVT)
- Get Ready to Read (GRTR)
- Curriculum-Based Decision Making (CBDM)
- Where Bright Futures Begin (Research Based Curriculum)
- Integrated Hiaki Language and Culture Wrap Around

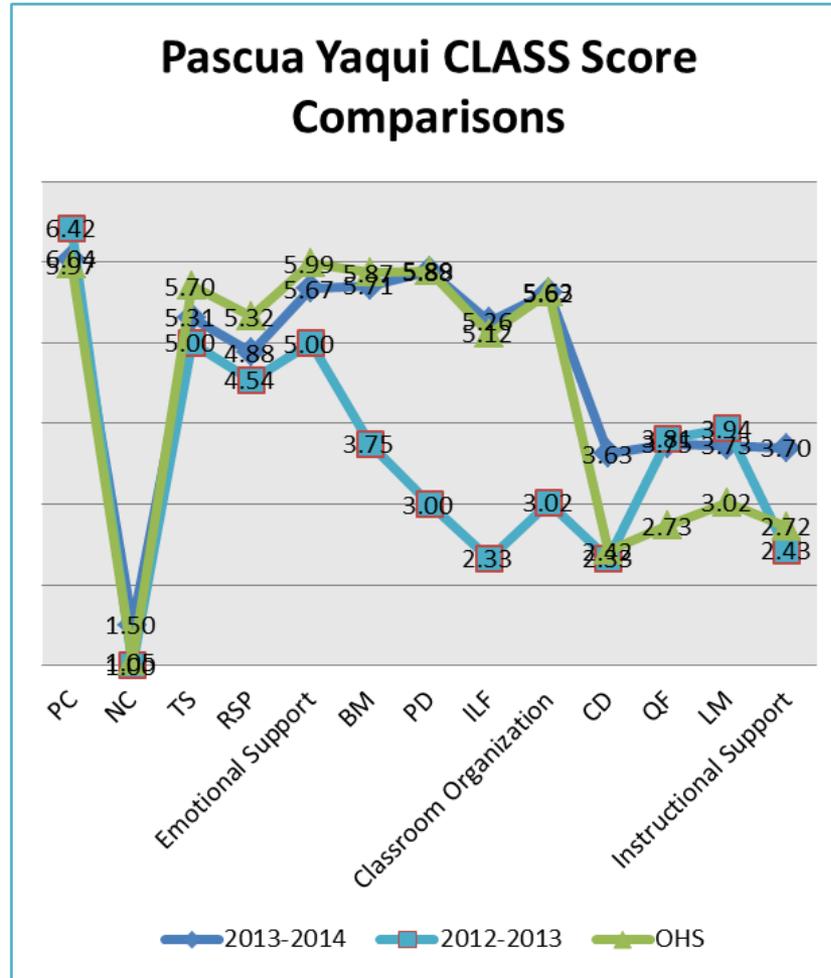
PYT Head Start Ili Uusim Mahtawa'apo



Class Training

- Teachers received top-notch professional development in the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS).
- CLASS is an observation instrument that assesses the quality of teacher-child interactions in center-based preschool classrooms. CLASS™ includes three domains or categories of teacher-child interactions that support children's learning and development: Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, and Instructional Support.
(source: Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center website)

PYT Head Start Ili Uusim Mahtawa'apo



PYT Head Start Ili Uusim Mahtawa'apo

Get Ready to Read (GRTR)

Scores 0-5

- Children scoring in this range have few of the prerequisite skills necessary to learn to read and write.

Scores 6-8

- Children are beginning to develop the necessary skills needed to learn to read and write.

Scores 9-11

- Children are making progress and have mastered many of the skills needed to read and write.

Scores 12-16

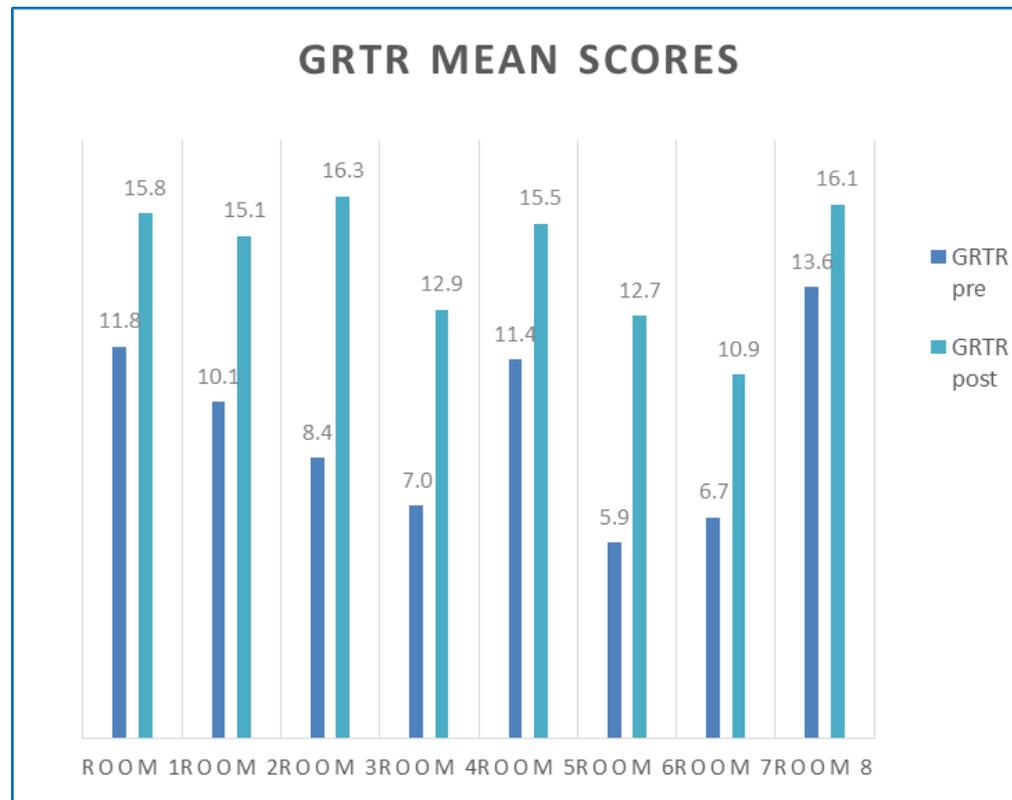
- Children have mastered the majority of the skills required and are almost ready to learn to read and write.

Scores 17-20

- Children in this range have strong skills and are ready to read and write.

PYT Head Start Ili Uusim Mahtawa'apo

Get Ready to Read (GRTR)



TUSD Preschool at Johnson School

Background Information

TUSD'S Johnson Primary School is a prek-2 school which serves the Pascua-Yaqui and surrounding community with high quality inclusive preschool programming.

Johnson serves 200 prek-2nd grade children. It was an ideal choice to expand services to include the children on the PYT Head Start wait list.

Once TUSD committed, through an MOU, to provide a classroom and equal access to Johnson school resources, First Things First was able to move forward with providing 16 full-time scholarships for 3 and 4 year old children identified as Pascua Yaqui tribal members who were on the Head Start wait list.

TUSD Preschool at Johnson School

Delivery of services: PRESCHOOL!

- Kathy, a PYT member, was hired as the classroom teacher in August 2013:
 - Prepared the classroom
 - Registered the students
 - Hired a teaching assistant
 - Began serving 16-3 and 4 year old children in October, 2013.
 - She is a fully integrated Johnson Primary School staff member and attends school and district professional development and all TUSD resources and training opportunities.
- All Johnson preschools programs were chosen as a Quality First site.
- Opportunity to implement PYT Head Start Curriculum which includes the CBDM progress monitoring tool and the Cultural Wrap-Around curriculum which is ground in Yaqui tradition, language and culture through language arts.

Tribal Education System



Professional Development

- TEACH Scholarships
- Professional Development-Communities of Practice
- College Scholarships
- Tribal Teachers Investment (regional unfunded approach)



Present system

- Head Start
- Child Care Home Providers
- Hiaki High School



Vision

- More early care and education services (Early Head Start, Child Care Center)

Learning as we go...

As 'pioneers' of this three-agency collaboration, we have learned a lot along the way, including...

- Keep the MOU simple.
- Ongoing, regular communication is critical to a successful program. Regular, face to face meetings are a great way to iron out wrinkles and re-establish the goals of the project.
- In between these meetings, emails which include all of the stakeholders so potential problems can be identified and solved before they affect the big picture-providing high quality pre-schooling programming.
- Develop an understanding of the rules, laws and expectations of each agency with which you are working. This helps to avoid pitfalls, delays and any possibility of losing funding. The expectations and processes for each agency are different. Understanding these differences and how to work with them well is the second critical piece to success.

THANK YOU!!



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